

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/088,895	Applicant(s) BIETTRON ET AL.	
	Examiner GWEN LIANG	Art Unit 2162	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) GWEN LIANG. (3)_____.

(2) THOMAS PERKINS. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: 29 August 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 14,16,18,21,22 and 26.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

1. The applicant's representative has agreed to amend the drawing, Figure 2, to overcome the objection to the informalities stated in this Office Action.

2. The applicant's representative has agreed and authorized the Examiner to make the following changes:

In the claims:

Replace claim 14 with the following text.

14. A method of thematically classifying documents, in particular for making up or updating thematic databases for a search engine, the method comprising the following steps:

- manually and/or automatically selecting a sample of documents representative of each theme;
- automatically identifying within the selected documents elements that are characteristic of each said theme;
- automatically allocating a coefficient to each identified element, wherein said coefficient is representative of a relevance of said element to a corresponding theme;
- downloading documents from a computer network;
- for each downloaded document to be classified, identifying said theme characterizing elements that are contained in the document for each said theme, and for each theme corresponding to the elements, using the coefficients allocated to said elements to calculate a characteristic value representative of the relevance of that theme for the document, in order to decide whether or not the document relates to the theme, said theme characterizing elements identification and calculation steps being performed automatically for each document downloaded from the computer network;
- automatically classifying the downloaded documents as a function of themes with which they deal;
- automatically storing the documents classified thematically in databases that can be interrogated on the basis of themes contained in a request; and
- making the databases available to users who interrogate the databases on the basis of themes contained in a request;

and the step of allocating said coefficient to each identified element comprises the following steps for each theme:

- automatically calculating a frequency of the element in the selected documents relating to the theme;
- automatically calculating a frequency of the element in the selected documents that do not relate to the theme; and
- automatically calculating a ratio of the calculated frequencies of the theme-related element and of the non-theme-related element.

Replace claim 16 with the following text.

16. A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of automatically calculating the characteristic value representative of the relevance of the theme of a document for classification comprises the following steps, for each theme:

- reading the value of the ratio of said frequencies for each theme representing element extracted from the document;
- multiplying together the values of the ratios as read for the theme characterizing elements; and
- allocating the result of the multiplication to the characteristic value.

Replace claim 18 with the following text.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the threshold value for each theme is automatically determined on the basis of the frequency ratio using the following relationship:

$\text{score_threshold}_{\text{theme}} = (R_{\text{mean}})_{\text{theme } n}$

in which:

score_threshold_{theme} designates the threshold value;

R_{mean} represents the mean value of frequency ratios R of the elements of the theme; and

theme n designates a predetermined number.

Replace claim 21 with the following text.

21. A method according to claim 14, wherein for each vocabulary element of a request formulated by a user, coefficients are automatically calculated that are characteristic of the element relative to each known theme, and each element is associated with the corresponding themes and coefficients, so that said coefficients reach a minimum value.

Replace claim 22 with the following text.

22. A module for thematically classifying documents, in particular for a search engine, the module comprising a central processor unit having means for comparing elements extracted from each document with elements characteristic of various themes, each element being allocated a coefficient representative of a relevance of said element for a corresponding theme, and means for calculating a characteristic value representative of the relevance of a theme for

the document on the basis of the coefficients of said characteristic elements that the document contains, in order to decide whether or not the document relates to said theme, said central processor unit being coupled to means for storing documents classified by theme that can be interrogated on the basis of themes contained in a request, and the module has means for calculating a frequency of the element in the documents relating to the theme, means for calculating a frequency of the element in the documents that do not relate to the theme, and means for calculating a ratio between the calculated frequencies of the theme-related element and of the non-theme-related element.

Replace claim 26 with the following text.

26. A search engine for documents on a computer network, the engine comprising an indexing module for creating and updating thematic databases on the basis of documents downloaded from the computer network, and a module for interrogating thematic databases adapted to supply references of documents corresponding to a request that has been input thereto, the search engine further comprising a thematic classification module according to claim 22 associated with the indexing module.